



New Horizons for Youth and for Nebraskan Community College

As in other counties in rural America, significant outmigration is a concern for the residents in Greeley, Sherman and Valley counties in Nebraska. In order to positively impact this outflow, Central Community College, stepped up. A vested partner in central Nebraska offering 33 career and technical education programs, the college determined the need to design workshops and events to develop and implement plans to stop outmigration, strengthen local leadership, engage youth, encourage entrepreneurship, and build for the future.



Students sit and listen to a lecture from one of their instructors.

A USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant of \$175,105 was awarded to Central

Community College to provide financial and technical assistance to the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), the Rural Policy Research Institute Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (CRE) and the Heartland Center for Leadership Development (HCLD) in order for these regional partners to build capacity in the three county area.

With the four pillars as a foundation, more than 600 people from the three county project area registered for one or more trainings/workshops offered through the RCDI project. And, in an effort to encourage entrepreneurship, events aptly named Community Builder Events included community tours, presentations, vision building and an opportunity for networking. As a mark of the sustainability of the project, additional Community Builder Events have been scheduled for 2015. Long-term relationships have been developed with the public, non-profit agencies, for-profit businesses, educational institutions, and governmental agencies as the project pre-pared recipients to carry forward community and economic development strategies outside of the RCDI grant period.

Obligation Amount: \$175,105

Date of Obligation: 07/27/2011

Congressional District: Representative Smith, NE-3rd District; Senators Fischer and Sasse

Partners: Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), the Rural Policy Research Institute Center for Rural

Demographics: Students, Educators, and Community Organizations

Impact: Community skills training; Youth engagement
